more business-like procedure must be followed, so that the newly elected member was told that the court was sitting on Mon. ays, Wednesdays and Fridays and he is now attending those mettings."

Police.

Crime in Karkal taluk.

* 320 Q.—Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether, owing to the large number of murders with firearms committed in the Karkal taluk during the last nine years and the small proportion of convictions obtained in such cases, the Government will see their way to adopt special steps by deputing special police officers for the said area?

A.—There have been no murders in the Karkal taluk since 1922. There is, consequently, no need for any special measures.

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he is quite convinced that the answer given here on the paper is accurate throughout. I have information of a very alarming nature just to the opposite effect, namely, that since 1922 there have been twenty murders in this Karkal taluk."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Some such suggestion was contained in a letter which came to Government and therefore they asked the local authorities and the answer given is the result. I shall again ask the local officers with reference to the statement that has fallen from my hon. Friend."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I take it, Sir, that wherever there are large numbers of murders, say in a particular taluk, or district, that the hon. the Law Member will be pleased to take special measures to protect the people of such places?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The hon. Member is perhaps aware that I have had the honour of having certain conversations with him regarding his own locality. But if in any particular locality there are any alarming features, they will certainly be considered."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know from whom the information was received that there have been no murders since 1922. We have been making enquiries and it is notorious that there have been several cases of murder."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The informant is the Collector and District Magistrate. He may be quite wrong. I will write to him again, seeing that two hon. Members of this House have assured me and have made themselves partly or wholly responsible for the statement that there are several murders that escaped the attention and action of the magistracy, and further enquiry will be made."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" The fact is, Sir, that many of these murders do not end in conviction at all." (Laughter.)

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" My hon. Friend, I thought, was an assistant sessions judge at one time and he knows that very strong cases sometimes do not end in conviction."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" No, Sir, somebody must be hanged." (Laughter.)

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Presumably myself."

A VOICE :—" Mr. Saldanha is speaking as an M.L.C. but not as assistant sessions judge."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" Does it not follow if, in a large number of cases very few end in conviction, that something is wrong somewhere, and that the police are not on the alert ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" We have already far exceeded the time allotted for questions."

Railways.

Casualties in the recent Ponneri train tragedy.

* 321 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of lives lost in the recent Ponneri train tragedy ;

(*b*) what was the main reason for such an accident ;

(*c*) what steps and other remedial measures were taken by the concerned railway to prevent any further accident ; and

(*d*) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (*a*) to (*c*), whether they will be pleased to call for the information ?

A.—(*a*) Ten.

(*b*) The persons killed were walking along the railway line to Ponneri instead of going along the road and had to cross a bridge over a jungle stream. The bridge had only a narrow footway of zinc sheeting. As they were crossing the bridge they were run into by the local passenger train. It was dark and the engine was running tender foremost. The bridge is not usually made use of by the public. In this case the victims took a quick cut along the railway line in their hurry to get to a festival.

(*c*) It is not possible to prevent such accidents if people will trespass on the railway lines.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" May I know out of the ten lives that were lost, how many were Adi-Dravidas ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I do not know if any one was."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" In regard to clause (*b*) may I know whether the Government will be pleased to ask the Railway authorities to have search-lights for their engines, so that we may avoid such accidents in the future ? "